

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 SSO-00 INR-05 INRE-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 SP-02 SAM-01 IO-03 /046 W  
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O P 161728Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6027

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1010

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE GOP RECOGNITION OF MPLA

1. MARIO SOARES STOPPED BY TO SEE ME AT 4:30 LOCAL 16 FEB  
ON HIS INITIATIVE. SAID HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO 5:00 MEETING  
WITH PRESIDENT AT PRESIDENT'S REQUEST. HE WAS CERTAIN PRESIDENT  
INTENDED TO PRESSURE HIM TO ALTER HIS OPPOSITION TO RECOGNITION  
OF MPLA.

2. SOARES SAID PRESIDENT AND MELO ANTUNES HAD UNLEASHED AN  
INTENSE CAMPAIGN IN FAVOR OF RECOGNITION OVER THE WEEKEND.  
THEY CITED REPORTS THAT SWEDEN AND FRANCE ARE GOING TO  
RECOGNIZE. MELO ANTUNES CLAIMS GOF HAS GIVEN GOP A FORMAL  
NOTE TO THAT EFFECT. ANTUNES AND COSTA GOMES ARGUE STRONGLY  
THAT SITUATION HAS NOW CHANGED WITH MPLA VICTORY AND OAU  
RECOGNITION, AND GOP MUST RECOGNIZE IF IT IS TO PROTECT  
ITS INTERESTS AT ALL. REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEETING ON  
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14 ENDED IN IMPASSE, AND THE SUBJECT WAS  
TURNED OVER TO PRESIDENT FOR DECISION. SINCE THAN COSTA GOMES  
AND ANTUNES HAD BEEN PRESSURING SOCIALISTS RELENTLESSLY.

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3. SOARES SAID HE WAS OBLIGED TO ADMIT SITUATION HAD ALTERED,

BUT HAD ARGUED WITH COSTA GOMES AND ANTUNES THAT GOP SHOULD NOT RUSH INTO RECOGNITION. GOP HAD ALREADY LOST ALL INFLUENCE WITH MPLA AND RECOGNITION AT THIS TIME WOULD NOT HELP. AS STALLING TACTIC HE HAD TAKEN POSITION THAT GOP SHOULD HAVE SOME PRIOR CONVERSATIONS WITH MPLA LEADING TO RECOGNITION. SOARES HAD ALSO TOLD COSTA GOMES AND ANTUNES THAT HE COULD NOT ALTER PS POSITION WITH OUT CONSULTING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHICH DUE TO MEET LATE TOMORROW, AFTERNOON FEB 17. FINALLY HE HAD URGED THAT GOP CONSULT USG BEFORE ACTING. HE DID NOT KNOW IF ANTUNES WOULD ACCEPT THAT SUGGESTION.

4. SOARES SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHERE USG STOOD. I TOLD HIM WE HAD A COMMITMENT TO ADVISE GOP IN ADVANCE OF ANY USG POLICY CHANGE. SINCE I HAD NOT HEARD FROM WASHINGTON I ASSUMED OUR POLICY HAD NOT ALTERED. HOWEVER, I WOULD CABLE WASHINGTON TO OBTAIN AN UPDATE. SOARES ASKED IF HE COULD HAVE A REPLY TOMORROW IN TIME FOR PS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION. HE ALSO ASKED IF WE COULD GIVE HIM A REPORT ON THE PRESENT ATTITUDES OF BRITISH AND WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENTS. HE ASSUMES ANTUNES INFORMATION ON FRENCH AND SWEDISH POSITIONS IS CORRECT.

5. COMMENT. THE PRESSURE HERE FOR RECOGNITION IS OVERWHELMING. EVEN THE GOP CONTROLLED RADIO IS SPECULATING THAT RECOGNITION IS IMMINENT. SOARES GAVE ME THE IMPRESSION THAT HE IS FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE, AND THE MOST HE COULD GAIN WOULD BE A FEW DAYS DELAY.

AS DEPARTMENT AWARE SOARES AND PS HAVE BLOCKED RECOGNITION OF MPLA SINCE NOVEMBER 11 INDEPENDENCE. WITH EACH NEW OFFENSIVE SOARES HAS ENTERED INTO CONSULTATION WITH US AT HIS INITIATIVE. HE HAS BEEN TOTALLY RESPONSIVE TO OUR ARGUMENTS, AT SOME POLITICAL COST BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE HIS PARTY. I STRONGLY URGE THAT WE NOT LEAVE HIM OUT ON A LIMB. IF OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE ABOUT TO RECOGNIZE I SUGGEST WE INFORM HIM. IF WE DO NOT HAVE ANY INITIATIVES UNDERWAY WHICH WOULD MAKE IT IMPORTANT TO TRY TO STAVE OFF GOP RECOGNITION FOR ANOTHER DAY OR SO I URGE THAT WE CONFIDE IN SOARES. WE COULD TELL HIM USG POLICY HAS NOT CHANGED BUT WE UNDERSTAND THE INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT POSITION HE IS IN ON THIS ISSUE. IF PS BELIEVES IT CAN NO LONGER HOLD OUT WE WILL

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UNDERSTAND, AND WE APPRECIATE HIS COLLABORATION WITH US TO DATE. IF WE SO DESIRE I AM SURE SOARES COULD INDICATE TO HIS PARTY AND TO GOP THAT CHANGE IN PS POSITION IS SOLELY A RESULT OF NEW DE FACTO SITUATION, AND DOES NOT SIGNAL ANY CHANGE IN USG POLICY.

SOARES SAID HE WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH ME TOMORROW AFTERNOON AT WHICH TIME I PROMISED TO CONVEY TO HIM WASHINGTON'S VIEWS.

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## Message Attributes

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